Munsiff's Courts in Shertalai.

104 *MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any of the courts (Munsiff's) in Shertalai experienced any difficulty in proceeding with the cases posted on account of Vakils being engaged in other courts in 1118 or 1119?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: The matter has not so far come to the notice of Government.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR: May I know the number of Munsiffs in Shertallai?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: This question does not arise out of the primary question.

Paddy purchased from the ryots and rice from outside.

105 *MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish information regarding the following points:—

(*a*) what is the quantity of paddy purchased from the ryots in the State by the Government till 1-12-1119;

(*b*) what is the amount spent by Government for the same;

(*c*) what is the quantity of paddy available with the Government for sale on 1-12-1119;

(*d*) what is the amount got by Government by sale of paddy till 1-12-1119;

(*e*) what is the quantity of rice purchased by the Government from outside the State till 1-12-1119;

(*f*) what is the amount spent by Government for such purchase;

(*g*) what is the quantity of rice left undisposed of with the Government on 1-12-1119; and

(*h*) what is the amount got by Government by the sale of rice till 1-12-1119?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*a*) 135,73469 paras, 1 edangali.

(*b*) Rs. 204·80 lakhs.

(*c*) 51,02,405 paras.

(*d*) Rs. 132·89 lakhs.

(*e*) 1,63,661 tons.

(*f*) Rs. 490·62 lakhs.

(*g*) 47,752 tons.

(*h*) It is not possible to furnish this information as the sale proceeds of all the grains are accounted for together.

Purchase of food grains.

106 *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedu-mangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the purchase of food grains from outside Travancore was done by Government officers direct or through agents; and

(*b*) if by agents, the names of the agents and the terms of the contract with each of them?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Purchases in all areas except Madras and Central Provinces were attended to by Messrs. Volkart Brothers on behalf of Travancore and Cochin jointly till November 1943 when the allotments under the preliminary Kharif Plan were made by the Government of India. Since then according to instructions from the Government of India the Supplying Administrations have employed their own Agents for making purchases.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Is it open to Government to fix the surcharge ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The supplying administration themselves levy the surcharge.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : What will be the surcharge for the Travancore Government ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : 4 annas per maund. When the supply Administration appoints their own agents, they levy a surcharge.

Conveyance of food grains.

107 * MR. P. S. MOHAMED : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the various arrangements made for the conveyance of rice and other food grains from Cochin to Alleppey and to other places ;

(*b*) whether on contract system or direct arrangement ;

(*c*) the arrangements made for the loading and unloading of the goods ;

(*d*) the arrangements made for the employment of coolies ;

(*e*) the rates of wages ; and

(*f*) the rates of hire of boats ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Government food grains are transported from Cochin to Alleppey and various other places both by sea and backwaters according to availability of vessels with due regard to seasonal conditions. Steamers and country craft are used for transport by sea, while vallams, lighters and barges are used for transport along backwaters.

(*b*) Both on contract system and by direct arrangement. Transport by vallums is arranged directly by Government and by other vessels on contract system.

(*c*) Through contractors engaged for the purpose.

(*d*) The coolies required are employed by the contractors.

(*e*) Wages to boatmen in commandeered vallums are paid by Government at the following rates :—

(i) Rupee one per day for an adult.

(ii) Chuckrams fourteen per day for a boy.

No information is available in regard to the rates of wages paid by the contractors to their coolies.

(*f*) Boat hire for vallams is fixed according to registered tonnage as follows :—

(i) Bh. Re. (1) one per ton per mensem for vallums above 14 tons ;

(ii) Annas (10) ten only per ton per mensem for vallums of and below 14 tons.

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